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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)
Third session
5-16 February 1996

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) ON ITS THIRD SESSION

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th). The Preparatory Committee decided to establish two working groups, which held a number of informal meetings.

2. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) opened the session and made a statement.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Committee (see annex III).

4. Statements were made by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

B. Attendance

5. The following States were represented: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. The observer for Palestine also attended the session.

7. The following United Nations programmes were represented: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Population Fund.

8. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Meteorological Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Commonwealth of Independent States, Council of Europe, European Economic Community, International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization of African Unity and Organization of the Islamic Conference.

10. A number of non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

11. Representatives of international associations of local authorities attended the session.

C. Agenda

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/1 and Add.1, which read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and local authorities in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision II/4 of the Preparatory Committee.

3. Status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II):

   (a) Trust funds;

   (b) Status of review reports and other substantive documentation to be submitted to the Conference;

   (c) Public information programme;

   (d) Partner forums;

(e) Organization of the Conference, including rules of procedure;

(f) Best practices and exhibitions.

4. Outcome of the Conference: draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action.

5. Provisional agenda of the Conference.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session.

13. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee established two working groups of the whole and allocated agenda to them as follows: Working Group I: agenda item 3; Working Group II: agenda item 4.

14. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Chile, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Senegal, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Benin.

15. Working Group I held three meetings, from 5 to 15 February, and Working Group II held five meetings, from 5 to 16 February.

II. ACCREDITATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION SET OUT IN DECISION II/4 OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

A. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February, the Preparatory Committee accredited to the Conference and its preparatory process the non-governmental organizations listed in A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1 (see annex I, decision 3/1 A).

17. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 7 February, at the request of a number of delegations, the Preparatory Committee decided to defer further consideration of the item to its next meeting.

18. Statements were made by the representatives of Norway, India and the United States of America.

19. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 15 February, the Preparatory Committee heard statements made by the representatives of the United States of America, China, Australia, Greece and Canada.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee decided that further consultations were needed regarding the consideration of accreditation of two organizations listed in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3/Corr.1. These organizations were also listed in annex II of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4. A decision on those organizations was postponed. The Preparatory committee then decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3 and Add.4 with the exception of those listed in annex II of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 (see annex I, decision 3/1 B).

21. The Secretary informed the Preparatory Committee that a further correction would be issued to document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3/Corr.1.

22. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America on documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1, invoking rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The representative of India also made a statement.

23. The Preparatory Committee decided to defer consideration of the motion to its next meeting.

24. At the 6th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of Norway reported on the informal consultations held on documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2 and A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1. Statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, Greece, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America and China.

25. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it authorize the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for 1996 to decide on the question of accreditation to the Conference of those non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1) (see annex I, decision 3/9).

26. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, the Committee agreed, in accordance with rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to reopen a decision taken on 5 February regarding accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1.

27. Following statements by the representatives of the United States of America and India, the Committee decided to exclude from the list of non-governmental organizations contained in documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1 the International Energy Foundation and Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (see annex I, decision 3/1 C).

28. Also at the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Turkey and Greece, the Committee decided to postpone to the pre-Conference consultations the consideration of accreditation to the Conference of the non-governmental organization entitled the Federation of Westthrace Turks in Europe (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2) (see annex I, decision 3/1 D).

B. Accreditation of international associations of local authorities

29. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February, after the representative of the United States of America raised a question to which the Chairman responded, the Preparatory Committee accredited to the Conference, and its preparatory process the international associations of local authorities listed in A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.2 (see annex I, decision 3/2).

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

General debate

30. The Preparatory Committee held a general debate on items 3 and 4 of its agenda at its 1st to 3rd, 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on 5, 7 and 16 February.

31. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement), Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Turkey, the host country.

32. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 5 February, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Sweden, China, Malaysia, India, Jordan, Nepal and the Sudan.

33. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

34. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 7 February, a multimedia presentation of the best practices database was made to the Committee. The representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements.

35. At the same meeting, the representative of Ghana, Mayor of Accra, the representative of Nepal, Mayor of Kathmandu, and the representatives of Jordan and Ecuador made statements.

36. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Kenya made a statement.

IV. STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

37. The Preparatory Committee considered the question of the status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (agenda item 3) at its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February, and allocated it to Working Group I for consideration.

38. Working Group I considered the question of the status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (agenda item 3) at its 1st to 3rd meetings on 5, 6 and 15 February 1996. It had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/3) and a note by the secretariat containing an executive summary entitled "The future of human settlements: good policy can make a difference" (A/CONF.165/PC.3/3/Add.1).

Documents relating to the status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

39. At the 1st meeting, on 5 February, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Preparatory Committee that it take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/3) and the note by the secretariat containing an executive summary entitled "The future of human settlements: good policy can make a difference" (A/CONF.165/PC.3/3/Add.1).

40. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision (see annex I, decision 3/4).

Statements of priorities and commitments

41. At the 3rd meeting, on 15 February, on the proposal of the representative of Australia, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Preparatory Committee that it adopt a draft decision relating to individual statements of priorities and commitments in conjunction with the Conference.

42. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision as orally revised (see annex I, decision 3/5).

Organization of the Conference

43. At its 3rd meeting, on 15 February, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Preparatory Committee that it authorize an inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee in order to consider outstanding organizational matters.

44. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision (see annex I, decision 3/6).

45. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of South Africa and Morocco, the Preparatory Committee decided to take note of a proposal to make electronic data bank material on the Conference available in French (see annex I, decision 3/7).

V. OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

46. The Preparatory Committee considered the question of the outcome of the Conference: the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action (agenda item 4) at its 1st meeting on 5 February and allocated it to Working Group II for consideration.

47. Working Group II considered the question of the outcome of the Conference: draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action at several meetings from 5 to 16 February. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Draft Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Plan of Action: report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4);

(b) Report of the informal drafting group of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.1);

(c) Co-ordination and co-operation within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.2);

(d) Matters arising out of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session, Nairobi, 24 April-1 May 1995: note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.3);

(e) New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system: note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.4);

(f) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee: note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.165/PC.3/CRP.1).

48. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 5 and 7 February, the Working Group considered the organization of its work. It agreed to establish three informal consultative groups and allocated work to them as follows: (a) informal sub-group A: paragraphs 1-35 and 143-162 of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4, (b) informal sub-group B: paragraphs 36-65 and 100-128 of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4, and (c) informal sub-group C: paragraphs 66-69 and 129-142 of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4.

49. At the 1st meeting, the Chairman made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Colombia, Benin, China, Chile, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Turkey and Morocco.

50. At its subsequent sessions, Working Group II considered the various chapters of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of

action (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4) and at the 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on 16 February, reported to the Plenary accordingly (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3 and addenda).

51. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Committee was informed of the results of the negotiations held on paragraphs 36 to 42 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.3, and revised the text. Following statements by the representatives of Senegal, France, Benin, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Swaziland, the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC/L.3/Add.3 as orally revised (see annex I, decision 3/8).

52. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the results of negotiations held on paragraphs 43 to 65 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.4, and revised the text.

53. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Holy See, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Islamic Republic of Iran, China and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The representative of the United States took the floor on a point of order.

54. The Committee then decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.4, as orally revised, with the exception of paragraphs 48, 48 bis, 48 ter, 51 (b), 51 (b) (bis), 55, 58 (f) and 65 (b).

55. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the results of negotiations held on paragraphs 66 to 75 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.5, and revised the text.

56. Statements were made by the representatives of India, the Philippines, Mexico, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada, the Holy See and Ukraine. The representative of Italy took the floor on a point of order.

57. The Committee then decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.5 as orally revised.

58. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Committee was informed of the results of the negotiations held on paragraphs 1 to 12 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3 and Corr.1, and revised the text. Statements were made by the representatives of India, Canada, the United States, Benin, the Holy See, Australia, Swaziland and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The representatives of the United States and of India took the floor on a point of order.

59. The Committee then decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3 and Corr.1 as orally revised.

60. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the results of the negotiations held on paragraphs 13 to 22 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.1, and revised the text.

61. Following statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Jamaica, Canada, India, Brazil and Australia, the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.1 as orally revised with the exception of paragraph 22 ter.

62. At the 6th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of the United States informed the Committee that paragraph 22 ter had been distributed and was to be inserted into the text in square brackets. The Committee agreed to that proposal.

63. The Committee was informed of the results of the negotiations held on paragraphs 13, 24 and 44 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, whichever were contained in Informal Paper No. 4. The text was orally revised.

64. Following statements by the representatives of the United States, India and Brazil, the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of Informal Paper No. 4 as orally revised.

65. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the results of the negotiations held on paragraphs 76 to 99 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, contained in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.6, and revised the text.

66. Following statements made by the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Benin, Egypt, the United States, Australia, Canada and the Philippines, the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/Add.6 as orally revised.

67. The Committee received the text of paragraph 29 bis (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.2) of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, which was circulated by the representative of Canada.

68. Following statements by the representatives of Benin, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Egypt, Guatemala, the United States, Canada, the Sudan, Zambia and Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of paragraph 29 bis, as circulated, in square brackets, and as part of the compilation of texts on this section.

69. The representative of the Holy See informed the Committee that, although document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.7 had not been approved formally by Working Group II, much agreement had been reached in informal sub-group B of Committee II on paragraphs 100 to 128 of the draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action, and this information should be indicated in the text transmitted to the Conference. The Committee agreed to that proposal.

70. Following statements by the representatives of India, the United States, Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Holy See, Brazil and Croatia, the Committee decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration the text of document A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.7.

VI. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

71. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 15 February, the Preparatory Committee heard statements made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Denmark and Norway.

72. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved the provisional agenda for the Conference (see annex, decision 3/3).

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

73. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Committee adopted its draft report (A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.2) and decided to entrust the responsibility of finalizing the report of the third session of the Preparatory Committee to the Rapporteur.

VIII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

74. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 16 February, the Secretary-General of the Conference made a concluding statement. A statement was also made by the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

75. The Chairman made a closing statement and declared the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) closed.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AT ITS THIRD SESSION

Decision 3/1. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision II/4 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

A

At its 1st meeting, on 5 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to accredit to the Conference and its preparatory process those non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1.

B

At its 4th meeting, on 15 February, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to accredit to the Conference and its preparatory process those non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/CONF.165/2/Add.3 and 4, with the exception of those listed in annex II of document A/CONF.165/2/Add.4.

C

At its 6th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to exclude from the list of non-governmental organizations contained in documents A/CONF.165/PC.3/2 and Add.1 (see decision A above) the International Energy Foundation and Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team.

D

At its 6th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decides to postpone to the pre-Conference consultations, the consideration for accreditation to the Conference of the non-governmental organization entitled the Federation of Westthrace Turks in Europe (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2).

Decision 3/2. Accreditation of international associations of local authorities in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision II/4 of the Preparatory Committee

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to accredit to the Conference and its preparatory process those international associations of local authorities listed in document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.2.

Decision 3/3. Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements Habitat II)

At its 4th meeting, on 15 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) approved the following provisional agenda for the Conference:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

5. Election officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committees of the Conference.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. State of human settlements, including strategies for their improvement.

9. Statement of Principles and Commitments, and the Global Plan of Action (the Habitat Agenda).

10. The role and contribution of local authorities, the private sector, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, and other partners in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

11. High-level segment.

12. Adoption of the Declaration and the Habitat Agenda.

13. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

Decision 3/4. Documents relating to the status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

At the 5th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of

the Conference secretariat 1/ and the note by the secretariat containing an executive summary entitled "The future of human settlements: good policy can make a difference." 2/

Decision 3/5. Individual statements of priorities and commitments in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

At the 5th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided that

(a) Participating States should be invited to make specific statements of national priorities and commitments at or in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul;

(b) States should be invited to include in these statements a list of specific actions which, in pursuance of the Habitat Agenda, they will take by the year 2000;

(c) Organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional institutions should also be invited to make their own statements of priorities and commitments, including specific action to be taken by them by the year 2000.

Decision 3/6. Organization of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat)

At the 5th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to authorize the Bureau to meet in the inter-sessional period before the Conference, with a view to resolving the outstanding organizational matters.

Decision 3/7. Status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

At its 5th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) took note of a proposal to make electronic data bank material on the Conference available in French.

1/ A/CONF.165/PC.3/3.

2/ A/CONF.165/PC.3/3/Add.1.

Decision 3/8. Draft final document of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) decided to transmit to the Conference for its consideration those texts, 3/ as orally revised, that would constitute the draft final document of the Conference, the draft Habitat Agenda.

Decision 3/9. Question of accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Conference

At its 6th meeting, on 16 February 1996, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for 1996 to decide on the question of accreditation to the Conference of those non-governmental organizations which had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat (see A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1).

3/ See A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3 and agenda.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AT ITS THIRD SESSION

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/1	Provisional agenda for the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda: note by the Secretariat
2	A/CONF.165/PC.3/2	Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and local authorities in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision II/4 of the Preparatory Committee: note by the Secretariat
2	A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.1	Additional list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
2	A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.2	List of international associations of local authorities recommended for accreditation
2	A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.3 and Corr.1 and 2	Additional list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
2	A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1	Additional list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/3	Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference Secretariat: Report of the Secretary-General
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/3/Add.1	The future of human settlements: Good policy can make a difference; Executive summary: note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/4	Draft statement of principles and commitments and Global Plan of Action: The Habitat Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.1	Draft statement of principles and commitments and Global Plan of Action: report of the informal drafting group of the Preparatory Committee: note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.2 and Corr.1	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: report of the Secretary-General
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.3	Matters arising out of the deliberations of the Commission on human settlements at its fifteenth session, Nairobi, 24 April-1 May 1995: note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/4/Add.4	New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system: note by the Secretariat
5	A/CONF.165/PC.3/5	Provisional agenda for the Conference
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/6	Letter dated 31 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/CRP.1	Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee: note by the Secretariat
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/CRP.2	The future of human settlements: Good policy can make a difference: note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/CRP.3	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: note by the Secretariat
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.1	State of preparedness of documents for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): note by the Secretariat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.2 and Rev.1	List of documents before the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): note by the Secretariat
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.3	Report of the regional ministerial meetings on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): note by the Secretariat
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.4	Report of the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment: note by the Secretariat
5	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.5	Calendar of Events "The Learning Year": note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.6	Compilation of comments received on the Habitat Agenda from within the United Nations system: note by the Secretariat
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.7	Table of contents and index of primary and secondary key words for the draft of the Habitat agenda: note by the Secretariat
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/INF.8	List of partícipants
1	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.1	Proposed organization of work: note by the secretariat of the Conference
7	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.2	Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee: organizational matters
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3 and Corr.1	Outcome of the Conference: draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Preamble (paras. 1-12)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.1	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Goals and principles (paras. 13-22)

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.2	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action (paras. 23-35)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.3	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Introduction (paras. 36-42)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.4	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Adequate shelter for all (paras. 43-65)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.5	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Adequate shelter for all (paras. 66-75)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.6	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (paras. 76-99)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.7	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (paras. 100-128)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.8*	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Capacity-building and institutional development (paras. 129-142)

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* Based on information papers before the Preparatory Committee and issued following the closure of the session.

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.9*	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: International cooperation and coordination (paras. 143-157)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.3/Add.10*	Outcome of the Conference: Draft statement of principles and commitments and global plan of action: Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action (paras. 158-162)
3	A/CONF.165/PC.3/L.4	Status of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): report of Working Group I

* Based on information papers before the Preparatory Committee and issued following the closure of the session.

Annex III

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

We are now in the final phase before Habitat II. I should like to take the opportunity to congratulate all of you. I wish you a productive session.

Habitat II completes the current cycle of global conferences. It will be the culminating United Nations global conference of the century.

Only two years ago, the preparatory process for this Conference seemed difficult. Public awareness was not high. There was a reluctance to speak about new commitments. We kept hearing about a new global malaise known as "conference fatigue".

Today, commitments to action have already been made. This has been not only by Governments. We have a broad array of new partners - local authorities, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, groups of women and youth, religious bodies, academic institutions and the press.

And, as for "fatigue", more than 150 countries are actively demonstrating that they do not know the meaning of the word. They are vigorously engaged in preparatory activities for Habitat II. They possess the foresight and political will to give shape to a new urban world.

You have come a long way since I addressed your first session in Geneva. Your accomplishments are a good sign that the Conference will succeed. You have pioneered a ground-breaking rules change. It could set a new pattern in the way the international community does business.

Under rule 61, all relevant partners, especially local authorities, will be able to present their views to Habitat II. This is an innovative measure. It has been endorsed by the General Assembly. It broadens the normal participation of Member States in United Nations meetings to include representatives from their own cities. It is timely and necessary in the context of your agenda.

There has been an extraordinary manifestation of interest in Habitat II by local governments and non-governmental and private sector representatives. This is borne out by the many parallel meetings these groups are organizing at Istanbul.

The vision inherent in this common initiative is evident once again in the international effort manifest in the "best urban practices" programme. Even now, it is collecting data from all parts of the world. It documents new ideas, and shares practical options, on the critical living and shelter conditions that are the concern of Habitat II.

The computerized "ideas bank" that is being set up promises that Habitat II will not be a Conference that dwells on problems. It will be a Conference that provides solutions. It will be creative and workable. It will motivate the world to make sustainable human settlements the rule and not the exception in the coming century.

Many countries are now preparing national plans of action on the urban problems confronting them. Each endeavour is unique. But far too few Governments have examined in detail the needs of their cities and towns. Even fewer have had the opportunity to devise long-range strategies for dealing with them.

All this is now changing. And the thanks go to you.

These commitments show the seriousness that the international community has accorded to the "City Summit" in Istanbul. They provide us with the means to forge the instruments we need to promote more sustainable forms of development in the next century.

For, in effect, you have helped to establish the required institutional mechanisms for policy dialogue and analysis. You have established a knowledge base, designed both to solve problems and to monitor implementation.

There is one crucial step left in this preparatory process - a step that only you can take. It is to arrive at a consensus for the Habitat agenda, the global plan of action. That will be your legacy to the future. A legacy of sustainable human, social, economic and environmental development. A legacy that is felt in the cities, towns and villages of our world in the new millennium.

At its first session, your Committee identified a list of issues that reflect the difficulties we face in our societies today. The second session saw the evolution of a conference of partners and of a more open participatory process. This third session will reflect the importance of concerted action and broad-based planning at all levels and among all partners.

We must take with us to Istanbul a document that is vital and vibrant. A living document, if you will, that not only shows the way, but provides realistic and attainable goals to which all nations can subscribe, and which all cities can implement.

But it cannot stop there. I look to the Habitat Summit to carry forward the agenda for global human action. That agenda has been devised in the historic continuum of global conferences which the United Nations has been proud to convene. It should be followed up by the United Nations, and the whole of the United Nations system, within that framework. Coordination and integration are necessary to maximize policy coherence and impact. They also are a must, at a time of mounting resource constraints, and in the face of the deepening financial crisis confronting the United Nations.

So, let us be creative, imaginative and practical. You here today can leave a cherished legacy to the future. In this spirit, I wish you every success in your deliberations and thank you for your dedication to this great task.